

INTRODUCTION

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Volume number 2 of 2010 presents the key papers delivered at the one-day international conference held in Bratislava, Slovakia, at Comenius University, on June 7, 2010 on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Central-European Pragmatist Forum (established in June 2000 at its 1st conference in Stará Lesná, Slovakia) under the title “The Philosophy of Pragmatism Today”. This celebratory as well as working event was generously sponsored by the United States Embassy to Slovakia and the Fulbright Commission in Bratislava and hosted by the Department of Philosophy and History of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts at Comenius. The Dean of the Faculty, doc. Anton Eliáš, provided all comfortable facilities to make this conference a worthy event. Part of it also was a small exhibition of books (donated by the grant of the US Embassy as well as some of the authors present at the conference), recently published by various international publishers. All these publications have become part of the Central-European Pragmatist Forum Library (CEPFL), which thus has been established as part of the Department of Philosophy and History of Philosophy as well as the Central-European Pragmatist Forum (CEPF) itself to serve the studies in pragmatism and American philosophy at this institution. Logically and truly, here is the place to thank all the sponsors and hosts mentioned above who made all this possible. Last but not least, the official launch of the CEPF online journal *Pragmatism Today* was also the part of this particular event.

The meeting was officially addressed by Professor Miroslav Marcelli, the Department Chair, who stressed its importance and relevance to the current philosophical scene in general, and for philosophy in Slovakia in particular. In their presentations, both CEPF co-chairs, Emil Višňovský and John Ryder reflected on the ten years of successful history of this international philosophical community of scholars and students of pragmatism and American philosophy in their broad contemporary contexts. The practical results of this history include six bi-annual international conferences held at various places over Europe (Slovakia 2000,

Poland 2002, Germany 2004, Hungary 2006, Czech Republic 2008, Spain 2010) with dozens of participants presenting their papers and some eminent key-note speakers such as Joseph Margolis, John McDermott, John Lachs, Hans Joas, Charlene Seigfried, and Herman Saatkamp. The next bi-annual conference has already been scheduled for Russia (St. Peterburg, 2012) with the central theme “Ethics and Aesthetics: Pragmatist Perspectives”. So far four volumes published by Rodopi Publishing House—*Pragmatism and Values* (2004), *Reconstruction and Deconstruction* (2004), *Education for a Democratic Society* (2007), and *Self and Society* (2009)—have been presented to the international readership. The next two volumes, *Identity and Social Transformation* and *Democracy: A Pragmatist Approach*, are under preparation and shall appear in 2011 and 2012, respectively. However, the most important outcome of the first decade of the CEPF activities can certainly be considered the formation of an international network – actually a sort of international community – of collaborating philosophers and scholars who discuss and exchange their views on and in pragmatism regularly; many of them have established their working contacts almost on daily basis. This international group has included for all those years as its active participants (and enthusiastic supporters) such important pragmatist scholars as Larry Hickman, Charlene Seigfried, Jim Campbell, Sami Pihlström, Vincent Colapietro, the late Mike Eldridge, to name but a few of a larger CEPF international group by no means restricted to Central Europe. But again, here is the place to thank, for their mutual inspiration, all those colleagues who as active participants have contributed more than once to the conferences mentioned above and published volumes as well as far beyond. With such a contribution there is great hope that the CEPF will continue and expand further into the next decade to come.

Pragmatism is not just a North-American school of philosophy today. Even the philosophical roots of pragmatism are not exclusively North-American: they are also general or Western, or European, that is „ours“: the seeds of the kind of philosophy pragmatism and neopragmatism are have been planted by such diverse schools of philosophy as the ancient Greek sophists and Epicureans, the British empiricists and Darwinians, the German Hegelians and Nietzscheans, French Bergsonians and postmodernists, and, perhaps surprisingly, but perhaps not so much, also by Central-European positivists (mostly after they had resided in the US); these latter have been almost equated with pragmatists here for some time, for example by so far the greatest Slovak philosopher Igor Hrušovský (1900-1978).

Today pragmatism has become international, and perhaps we might say – global. It has the potential to be one of the most important philosophical currents in the 21st century and there are plenty of reasons for all of us, not only in Central Europe, to study this philosophy, which is why the CEPF has been established and continues to be active.

The present volume of *Pragmatism Today* opens up with a clarification of pragmatism “then and now” given by Susan Haack – who was the special invited speaker at the CEPF Anniversary Event in June 2010 – in her interview with Sun Yong of China. Vincent Colapietro takes very cognizant stock of what Peirce means for us today. A similar task, in a somewhat shorter version, has been undertaken by Don Morse concerning James and in the form of a synopsis by Jim Campbell concerning Dewey. That pragmatism can hardly be understood, not to say accepted, in Europe, unless we comprehend its links with some coryphaeus European figures such as Kant, has been the incentive for Sami Pihlström to outline these links in his paper. The next two papers, written by Slovak authors, focus on some aspects of pragmatist philosophy: František Mihina and Juraj Žiak elaborate on Peirce's notion of abduction, and Tatiana Sedová on Rorty's conception of redescription. Alas, some of the other papers presented at the conference, have not been, for various technical reasons, included. As a standard item, a book review by Alexander V. Stehn of a recent publication of R. Bernstein in Spanish is, additionally, included.